



GRIPPING TALES OF SUSPENSE!

No 107
APRIL

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

ADVENTURES INTO THE UNKNOWN

IND.

10¢

WEAPONS OUT
OF **SPACE**, EH?
LET'S SEE WHAT
THEY CAN DO
AGAINST THE
SUPERNATURAL!

Suppose A WITCH AND
A SPACEMAN
FOUGHT...WOULD IT
BE LIKE **THIS?** OR
PERHAPS AS IN
"**A BRIDEGROOM
FOR JENNY!**"

...COMPLETE IN
THIS THRILLING
ISSUE!





WEB COMIC
UNIVERSE.COM



**BOYS • GIRLS
MEN • WOMEN**

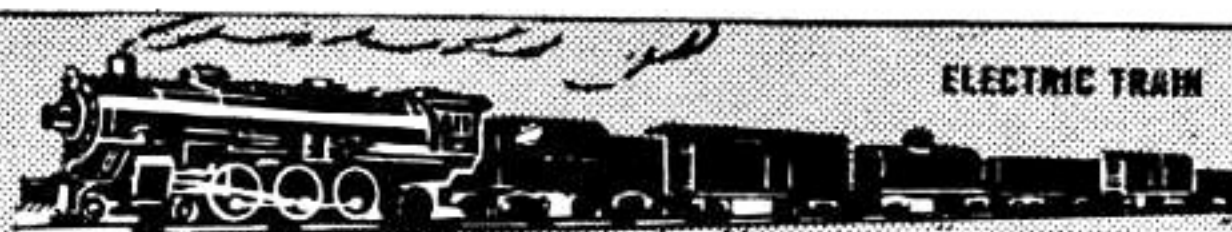
**Boy and Girl Scouts
Camp Fire Girls - News Boys!**

PRIZES GIVEN

MAKE MONEY, TOO!

We will send you the wonderful prizes pictured on this page ... or dozens of others, such as jewelry, radium dial wrist watches, tableware, tools, air-rifles, U-Make-It kits, leather kits, sewing kits, electric clocks, pressure cookers, model airplanes, scout equipment, movie machines, record players, and many others ... all **WITHOUT ONE PENNY OF COST**. You don't risk or invest a cent—we send you everything you need **ON TRUST**. Here's how easy it is: Merely show your friends and neighbors inspiring, beautiful Religious Wall Motto plaques. Many buy six or even more to hang in every room. An amazing value, only 35c ... sell on sight. You can make big cash commissions or get many exciting prizes for selling just one set of 24 Mottos. Other prizes for selling 2 sets or more. Write today for Big Prize catalog sent to you Free.

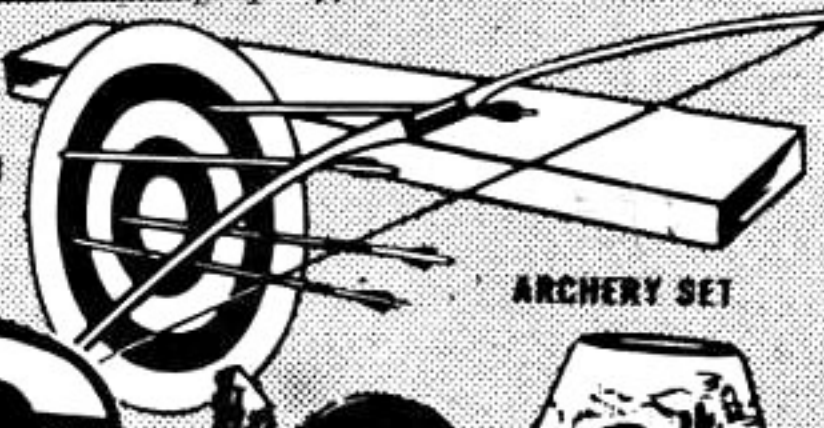
SEND NO MONEY—We Trust You!



ELECTRIC TRAIN



PORTABLE
PHONOGRAPH



ARCHERY SET

MUSICAL
INSTRUMENTS



FLASH
CAMERA



BOB
ROBERTS
OR DAL
EVANS
LAM

GABBY
HAYES
FISHING KIT



RED RYDER CARBINE

ALL KINDS OF
HOUSEWARES



POPUK
TOASTER



BOYS' OR GIRLS'
BICYCLE



SCOUTING
EQUIPMENT



TYPEWRITER



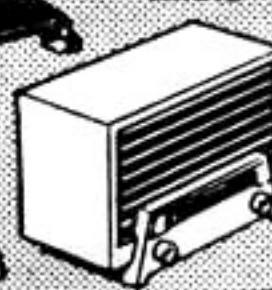
JET PLANE
WITH GAS
ENGINE

BROWNIE
MOVIE CAMERA
PROJECTOR
SCREEN



SEWING MACHINE

RADIO



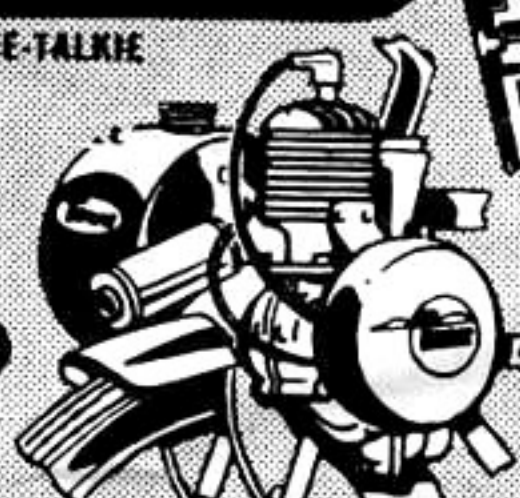
WALKING
DOLL



WRIST WATCH FOR
BOYS AND GIRLS



TABLE TENNIS SET



GAS MOTOR
FOR YOUR
BICYCLE



SPORTS EQUIPMENT



ROLLER
SKATES



GIRLS
OVERNIGHT
CASE



INDIAN
MOCCASIN
SET



FREE
BIG
PRIZE
CATALOG



WOODBURNING
SET

CHEMISTRY
SET



HERE'S HOW YOU GET YOUR PRIZES

Rush your name and address on coupon and we ship *At Once Prepaid* your first set of 24 Mottos **on trust**. When you have sold the 24 Mottos, send the \$8.40 you have collected and you can secure your choice of many wonderful prizes. If you prefer to **EARN MONEY**, send \$6.00 and keep \$2.40. **Hurry, send TODAY for 24 Mottos ON TRUST** and big Prize Catalog Free.

FREE MEMBERSHIP in FUNman's Pun Club

EXTRA! Sell mottos and send payment within 15 days, and I'll give you **FREE** a year's Membership in the FUNman's Pun Club ... Membership card, certificate, secret code, giant packet of fun materials all yours — **PLUS** extra surprises!

The **FUNman**, Dept. B-159
5726 N. Broadway, Chicago 40, Ill.

**FREE BIG PRIZE
CATALOG**

Please rush to me on 15-days credit 24 Religious Wall Mottos, to sell at 35c each. Also include big Prize Catalog **FREE**. I will remit amount required as explained in **BIG PRIZE CATALOG** within 30 days and select the prize I want or keep a cash commission as explained.

Name

Street or RFD

Town Zone State

SEND NO MONEY—We Trust You!

HE WAS JUST A PUPPET! ONLY A PAINTED FACE WITH A BODY OF WOOD---A LIFELESS CREATURE, WITHOUT MIND OR HEART! AND YET BEFORE YOU FINISH THIS STORY, YOU WILL HAVE DISCOVERED FOR YOURSELF THE AMAZING TRUTH ABOUT---

The THING THAT WAS

CHARLIE O'REILLY!

STORY: BOB STANDISH

ART: JOHN FORTE



JON AND EVE TALLENT WERE PUPPETEERS AND VENTRILOQUISTS! THEY LOVED YOUNGSTERS, AND SPENT THEIR SPARE HOURS IN ENTERTAINING AT ORPHANAGES AND HOSPITAL WARDS---

SO YOU ATE THE PERFORMING PARROT! WELL, WHAT DID HE TASTE LIKE, CHARLIE?

LIKE CHICKEN AND TURKEY AND DUCK!! I TELL YOU, THAT PARROT COULD IMITATE ANY-THING!



BUT THE WORLD WOULD HAVE BEEN AGHAST TO SEE THE WEIRD LITTLE FANTASY THAT TOOK PLACE EACH NIGHT IN THEIR HOME---

ALL RIGHT, CHARLIE, MOTHER HAS TOLD YOU YOUR BEDTIME STORY! TIME FOR BED NOW!

ALL RIGHT, MOTHER! YOU AND DADDY KISS ME GOOD-NIGHT!



VENTRILOQUISM-FOR THOUGH THEY ADORED CHILDREN, FATE HAD LEFT THE TALLENTS CHILDLESS! AND SO IN THEIR HEARTBREAK THEY PRETENDED THAT CHARLIE O'REILLY, THEIR STAR PUPPET, WAS THEIR SON---THE SON THEY COULDN'T HAVE!

GOOD NIGHT, DEAR, AND SWEET DREAMS!

GOOD NIGHT, MOMMY! GOOD NIGHT, DADDY!



BUT OFTEN, EVE WOULD TURN AWAY TEARFULLY FROM THE GROTESQUE MASQUERADE...

BUT HE'S **NOT** A REAL CHILD, AND IT'S **YOUR** VOICE COMING THROUGH HIS LIPS! OH JON, WHY DO WE TORTURE OURSELVES LIKE THIS?

EVE, DARLING, MAYBE IT WON'T ALWAYS BE THIS WAY...

IT'S NICE OF YOU TO TRY TO COMFORT ME ...BUT HOW CAN IT CHANGE?

I SPOKE TO THE ADOPTION AGENCY TODAY! THEY PROMISED TO CONSIDER OUR CASE, BUT IT WILL TAKE **TIME!**

THEN ONE DAY, THE LONELY YEARS WERE ENDED...

OH KEN, WE'VE WAITED SO LONG FOR YOU! YOU'RE GOING TO BE **OURS** ...OUR OWN LITTLE BOY!

OVERJOYED BY THEIR GOOD FORTUNE, THE TALLENTS FORGOT ABOUT THE PUPPET THEY HAD TREATED AS THEIR CHILD FOR YEARS...

KEN, THIS IS **YOUR** ROOM!

WE ALWAYS HOPED WE'D HAVE A **REAL** LITTLE BOY SLEEPING IN HERE!

BUT NOW SOMETHING **STRANGE** HAPPENED! WITH THE COMING OF KEN, AN EERIE CHANGE CAME OVER CHARLIE O'REILLY...

SOMETHING WRONG WITH CHARLIE AGAIN, EVE! NOW I JUST CAN'T SEEM TO GET HIS HEAD WORKING PROPERLY!

THAT'S FUNNY! WE WORKED WITH THAT PUPPET FOR YEARS WITHOUT DIFFICULTIES, AND NOW SUDDENLY HE'S BEEN NOTHING BUT TROUBLE FOR THE PAST FEW WEEKS!

AS THE DAYS PASSED, THE MARIONETTE BECAME MORE DIFFICULT TO MANAGE! IT WAS AS IF A SPIRIT OF SPITEFUL DEFIANCE HAD ENTERED THE LITTLE WOODEN BODY...

I JUST CAN'T SEEM TO GET CHARLIE'S THINGS ON! THE WAY HE MOVES AROUND, YOU'D SWEAR HE WAS **ALIVE!**

IT'S ALL YOUR **IMAGINATION**, EVE!

IT WAS ALMOST AS IF THE PUPPET HAD DEVELOPED A WILL OF HIS OWN! STRANGE THINGS BEGAN HAPPENING DURING THE PERFORMANCE! ONE DAY...

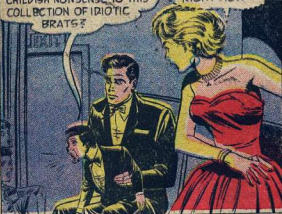
A FUNNY THING HAPPENED TO ME ON THE WAY TO THE THEATRE TONIGHT...

IF IT DID, IT'S THE FIRST FUNNY THING THAT'S HAPPENED IN THIS ACT FOR A LONG TIME!

THEY SAT THERE STUNNED AS CHARLIE CONTINUED, A SAVAGE RASP IN HIS VOICE---

MUST WE GO ON SPOUTING CHILDISH NONSENSE TO THIS COLLECTION OF IDIOTIC BRATS?

JON---WE'D BETTER LEAVE THE STAGE--- RIGHT NOW!



AFTERWARD, AT HOME, THEY TRIED TO FIGURE OUT WHAT HAD HAPPENED---

IT **MUST** HAVE BEEN YOU WHO SAID IT! NOW WE'LL **NEVER** GET AN AGENT TO BOOK US AGAIN!

BUT I NEVER SAID A WORD! I THOUGHT IT WAS **YOU** THROWING YOUR VOICE! BUT--- BUT IF IT WASN'T **EITHER** OF US---



THE STAGGERING IDEA HIT THEM BOTH AT THE SAME MOMENT---

THEN IT MUST HAVE BEEN---OH, JON, I DON'T KNOW HOW TO SAY THIS SO THAT IT'LL MAKE SENSE! BUT WE ALWAYS TREATED **CHARLIE** AS IF HE WAS OUR SON---AND NOW---

YOU MEAN YOU THINK THAT CHUNK OF WOOD AND CLOTH IS **JEALOUS** OF KEN? OH, COME ON, EVE, WE MUSTN'T BE **RIDICULOUS!**



BUT CHARLIE HAD BECOME A JINK TO THE TALLENTS! THEY DECIDED TO CUT HIM OUT OF THEIR ACT! FOR THE FIRST TIME, THEY STORED HIM AWAY IN A CHEST WITH OTHER DISCARDED PUPPETS---



NOW THERE WAS NO MORE TROUBLE--- UNTIL ONE DAY, KEN BEGGED THEM FOR A PUPPET OF HIS OWN!

BUT KEN, WE **CAN'T** GIVE YOU A PUPPET ---THEY'RE MUCH TOO VALUABLE TO BE A PLAYTHING FOR A LITTLE BOY!

WAIT A MINUTE, EVE ---I JUST THOUGHT OF SOMETHING! WHY NOT GIVE HIM **CHARLIE**? WE NEVER USE HIM ANY-MORE, ANY-WAY!



COULD THOSE WEEKS IN THE DARK CHEST HAVE DONE SOMETHING TO CHARLIE? WAS THAT A GLINT OF MALICE IN HIS GLASSY EYES, A STRANGE TWIST TO HIS PAINTED SMILE?

IT MAY BE MY IMAGINATION, JON, BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THAT PUPPET **I DON'T LIKE!**

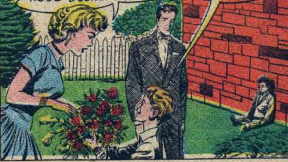
OH, EVE, **FORGET** IT!



BUT IT WAS MORE THAN IMAGINATION! IN THE WEEKS THAT FOLLOWED, THEY NOTICED AN UNPLEASANT CHANGE IN THEIR ADOPTED SON---

NOT **MORE** MISCHIEF, KEN! WHAT IN THE WORLD MADE YOU TEAR OFF ALL THOSE FLOWERS? YOU ALMOST DESTROYED THAT ROSE BUSH!

BUT MOTHER, **CHARLIE** SAID YOU'D **LIKE** TO HAVE A BOUQUET OF ROSES!



AGAIN AND AGAIN THE BOY FOUND HIMSELF IN DIFFICULTIES--AND EACH TIME, HE WOULD BLAME THE PUPPET WHO HAD BECOME HIS CONSTANT COMPANION---

NOW DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE GOING TO BLAME **THIS** ON CHARLIE, TOO! DON'T YOU REALIZE HE'S NOTHING BUT A **WOODEN PUPPET**?

BUT DAD, CHARLIE'S **NOT** JUST A PIECE OF WOOD! HE **SPEAKS** TO ME, ALL THE TIME!

I'VE HAD **ENOUGH** OF THIS NONSENSE! I'LL NOT HAVE YOU PUTTING THE BLAME ON SOME-ONE ELSE WHENEVER YOU GET INTO MISCHIEF! NOW GO TO YOUR ROOM AND STAY THERE FOR THE REST OF THE DAY!

I JUST CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT!

BUT THE BOY WOULD NOT TURN FROM HIS MISCHIEVOUS WAYS! IT WAS AS IF SOME UNKNOWN FORCE WERE DRIVING HIM ON---

AND WITH EACH PASSING DAY, JON'S PUNISHMENTS GREW MORE SEVERE---

HE NEVER TALKS TO **US** ANYMORE---IT'S **CHARLIE** THAT HE LISTENS TO! I TELL YOU THAT PUPPET IS TALKING HIM INTO ALL THIS TROUBLE!

REALLY, EVE, YOU MUSTN'T LET THIS GET THE BEST OF YOU! THAT'S **CRAZY!**

IT'S **NOT** CRAZY! I TELL YOU IT'S **CHARLIE O'REILLY** THAT'S GETTING KEN IN ALL THAT TROUBLE! HE'S **JEALOUS** OF OUR SON, I'M SURE OF IT!

CONTROL YOURSELF! YOU'RE BUILDING THIS UP TO RIDICULOUS LENGTHS!

AND THEN ONE WINTER DAY, THINGS REACHED A CLIMAX---

KEN! GREAT HEAVENS, BOY, WHAT ARE YOU **DOING?**

I'M PAINTING THE CAR, DAD! CHARLIE SAID SHE COULD **USE** A GOOD COAT OF PAINT!

(CONTINUED ON PAGE AFTER NEXT)

Get Rid of UGLY PIMPLES this new easy way!

Amazing new medicated lotion developed by a doctor works wonders by clearing up complexion in one week or less!

DON'T let a bad complexion ruin romance, spoil your fun, cause you to be embarrassed, shy or ashamed. If you suffer from acne, the common external cause of pimples among young people, try this wonderfully effective medicated lotion that was developed by a practicing physician to clear up his own teen ager's complexion after other methods had failed. It has produced astonishing results for many thousands of others. It is **GUARANTEED** to help you or it won't cost you a single cent!

Doesn't Show On Your Face

Keraplex is a skin-colored lotion (NOT a greasy salve or ointment!) that is quickly absorbed by the skin and gets right down in the pores where its healing and antiseptic ingredients can go to work. After you have applied it, there is no trace left on the surface. In fact, it makes a perfect powder base for girls and a refreshing after shaving lotion for men... actually improves the tone of the skin! It is pleasant and easy to use—leaving your skin soft, clean and fragrant.

Works in SIX Out of SEVEN Cases!

An analysis of **RESULTS** taken from actual case histories proves that Keraplex is successful in clearing up 6 of every 7 cases of externally caused pimples and blackheads. It tones up the complexion, giving it a healthy, radiant glow. And men—if you suffer from pimples on shoulders and back, Keraplex does an amazingly effective job of clearing them up **FAST**—without soiling clothes, without messiness or greasiness!

Try This New Method Without Risking A Penny!

Keraplex is **GUARANTEED** to clear up your skin troubles or there will be **NO COST** to you whatsoever. If yours happens to be the **ONE** extra-stubborn case out of seven which Keraplex cannot help in one short week, it will cost you nothing to have tried it. Keraplex is sent to you with that simple, positive **GUARANTEE**!

SEND NO MONEY

You need send no money with the coupon below. When postman delivers your Keraplex lotion (in plain wrapper marked "Personal"), deposit with him only the modest price indicated below, plus a few cents postage. Then use your Keraplex morning and night for a full week, following the simple directions which will be enclosed.

If you do not **SEE RESULTS** that delight you—if you are not fully convinced that Keraplex IS clearing up your complexion—just return the empty bottle or unused portion and the purchase price will be refunded in full. Don't delay a single day. The longer you let your skin troubles go, the more difficult it will be to clear them up and get your complexion back to a healthy, clear, unblemished condition! Clip and mail the coupon **TODAY**. Underwood Laboratories, Inc., Stratford, Conn.



BEFORE

This young man suffered from a severe case of acne for years and tried all the usual "remedies" without success.



AFTER

Same young man after using **KERAPLEX** twice a day for just one week. Notice the decided improvement—pimples completely gone!



BEFORE

Note more than a dozen blemishes on just one side of this girl's face before **KERAPLEX** was applied.



AFTER

Same girl had used **KERAPLEX** twice a day for only 5 days when above photo was taken. Note the amazing improvement.

WHAT USERS SAY:

"I was suffering from a severe case of acne... and with only 4 days' treatment with Keraplex... was completely relieved."—P. S.

"I have been completely satisfied with your lotion to help clear up the pimples on my face."—K. W.

"I have used Keraplex and for the first time in my life, my pimples are clearing up in good shape. I can't thank you enough!"—E. S.

MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

**UNDERWOOD LABORATORIES, Inc., Dept. 243
STRATFORD, CONN.**

Yes! I want to try Keraplex **ON APPROVAL**. Send size checked below in plain wrapper marked "personal." When it is delivered I will deposit with postman amount indicated below, plus postage. If not delighted with the **RESULTS**, I will return empty bottle within seven days for a full refund of the purchase price.

- ☐ Regular Size, \$1.98
☐ Double Quantity (Two Bottles), \$3.50

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zone _____ State _____

☐ **SAVE POSTAGE.** Check here if you **ENCLOSE** payment, in which case we pay postage. Same money-back Guarantee applies!

Payment must be sent with orders going to A.P.O.'s, Canada and foreign countries, due to postal rules.

I'VE HAD **ENOUGH** OF THIS NONSENSE! IF YOU'RE GOING TO BLAME CHARLIE FOR ALL THE TROUBLE YOU GET INTO, THEN THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO... TAKE HIM AWAY FROM YOU PERMANENTLY! NOW GO TO YOUR ROOM AT ONCE!

BUT DAD, YOU CAN'T DO THAT... YOU **CAN'T!** CHARLIE'S MY **BEST FRIEND!**



As the tearful youngster ascended to his room...

THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO BREAK CHARLIE'S HOLD ON OUR SON... YOU'VE GOT TO **DESTROY** THAT PUPPET, ONCE AND FOR ALL!

EVE, YOU'RE JUST AS BAD AS KEN! IF THERE'S ONE THING I **WILL** DO, IT'S PROVE TO BOTH OF YOU THAT CHARLIE IS NOTHING BUT AN INANIMATE BLOCK OF **WOOD!**



BUT LATE THAT NIGHT, THE SOUND OF AN OPENING DOOR AWOKE THEM FROM THEIR SLUMBER...

JON, THAT NOISE! IT'S THE FRONT DOOR...

I'LL GO RIGHT DOWN, EVE!



BUT IT WAS TOO LATE! FOR ALREADY, DETERMINED LITTLE FEET WERE PLOUGHING THEIR WAY THROUGH THE SNOWDRIFTS OUTSIDE!



IT'S KEN! OH JON, HE'S RUN AWAY!

IT'S MY FAULT, EVE! I WAS TOO HARSH WITH THE BOY!



And then, in the next instant...

JON, LOOK THERE... THAT **SECOND** SET OF FOOTPRINTS! WHY, THEY'RE NO BIGGER THAN A DOLL'S!

A **DOLL?** ONLY ONE CREATURE COULD HAVE MADE THOSE FOOTPRINTS... **CHARLIE O'REILLY!**



In that ghastly moment, it was as if a veil had been lifted from their eyes!

YOU WERE RIGHT ALL THE TIME, EVE! I DON'T KNOW HOW IT HAPPENED OR WHY... BUT SOMEHOW, THAT PUPPET HAS **COME TO LIFE!** HE MADE KEN LEAVE HOME! HE'S JEALOUS OF HIM... JEALOUS ENOUGH TO **HARM** HIM!



DRESSING HURRIEDLY, THEY HASTENED OUT INTO THE NIGHT...

WE'VE GOT TO FIND KEN BEFORE THAT PUPPET HURTS HIM! OH JON, HURRY, **HURRY!**

WE'LL FIND THEM, EVE, AND WHEN WE DO, I'LL FINISH **CHARLIE ONCE AND FOR ALL!**



LOOK, HE MUST HAVE FALLEN HERE! HE MUST HAVE BEEN EXHAUSTED WALKING THROUGH THESE SNOWDRIFTS... THE POOR HELPLESS LAMB!

NO KID HIS AGE COULD KEEP THIS UP FOR LONG! WE'VE GOT TO FIND HIM SOON... OR...



AND THEN A NEW FEAR ASSAILED THEM...

THEY TURNED HERE! GOOD HEAVENS, THAT WOODEN DEMON IS LEADING THE BOY TOWARDS **BRINK'S CREEK!**

OH, N-N-O!



THERE'S THE CREEK NOW!

AND KEN IS NOWHERE IN SIGHT!



AND THEN THEY SAW HIM, A PITIFUL LITTLE FIGURE ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE FLOODED CREEK...

IT'S **KEN!** HE'S LYING THERE IN THE CREEK! WE'VE GOT TO GET TO HIM...

THERE'S A FOOTBRIDGE! HURRY, THIS WAY!



HEARTS POUNDING, THEY REACHED HIM...

IT'S **CHARLIE!** HE'S GOT KEN BY THE HAND...

HE... HE MUST HAVE DRAGGED THE BOY INTO THE CREEK!



IN THAT AWFUL MOMENT, A SEARING HATRED SEIZED JON'S BRAIN---



YOU DID THIS TO HIM, YOU LITTLE WOODEN DEVIL! BUT YOU'RE GOING TO **PAY** FOR IT!

BUT EVEN AS THE SHATTERED PUPPET FELL FROM THE LIMB---



JON, HE'S **ALIVE!**
OUR SON'S **ALIVE!**

MOTHER! DAD!
WHAT HAPPENED?



IT'S ALL RIGHT, KEN. YOU'RE SAFE NOW!
CHARLIE WILL NEVER BOTHER YOU AGAIN!

CHARLIE... I SHOULD HAVE LISTENED TO HIM! HE BEGGED ME **NOT** TO RUN AWAY---SAID YOU LOVED ME---NEEDED ME---

KEN... WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?



BUT I--- I WENT ANYWAY! THEN I--- FELL INTO THE CREEK AND STARTED TO GO DOWN! AND ALL OF A SUDDEN, **CHARLIE** WAS THERE--- REACHING HIS HAND OUT TO ME! HE PULLED MY HEAD ABOVE THE SURFACE---HELD ME---



THEY TURNED TO LOOK AT THE SHATTERED REMAINS OF **CHARLIE O'REILLY**, A NEW COMPREHENSION IN THEIR EYES---

CHARLIE... I DIDN'T KNOW
---I DIDN'T **UNDER-
STAND**---

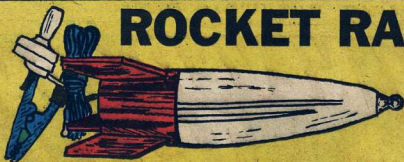
WE HURT HIM---HURT HIM TERRIBLY---BUT HE LOVED US TILL THE END!



THEY LEFT, BUT BEHIND THEM THERE WAS A QUIET SMILE ON THE PAINTED FACE LYING IN THE SNOW! **CHARLIE O'REILLY** WAS AT PEACE!



The
END!



ROCKET RADIO

only
\$3.98
POSTPAID

★ NO TUBES ★ NO BATTERIES ★ NO ELECTRICITY

Listen to your favorite radio program with this wonderful rocket radio. Fits in the palm of your hand. Needs no tubes, batteries, or electricity. Can't disturb others — no one can listen but you. Attach the aerial to your alarm clock, and listen in bed — no one will hear it — or even know you are listening. Speaker fits snugly in your ear. Simply attach aerial clip to bare metal line, like telephone dial, TV set or fan, adjust the tuner and listen! You'll have great fun with this radio — it's just like grandfather's old crystal set combined with the modern look of today's moon missiles. The Germanium Diode powered radio will pick up your strongest local station. Children 6 to 60 will thrill to it. Only \$3.98 postpaid. 10 day money back guarantee. Order one today!

MAIL ORDER TODAY!

INTERPLANETARY SALES CO.

Missile Dept. A
246 Bay 22 Street
Brooklyn 14, New York

Please send me.....rocket radio(s) at \$3.98 each.
I may return it in 10 days if not fully satisfied.

Name.....

Address.....

City.....Zone.....State.....

Get Yours today!



EXPLODING ARMY HAND GRENADE

EXACT REPLICA **only \$1.00**

Here's real battle authenticity. This menacing hand grenade looks and works just like a real one. All you do is pull the pin, wait 4 seconds, throw the grenade, and watch the fun as it explodes automatically. It's completely harmless, but the explosion it makes can be heard for a block. Really scatters the gang when you throw this baby in their midst. It sure looks and sounds real. Can't break. Can be exploded over and over again. Heavy gauge steel firing mechanism. Only \$1 plus 25¢ shipping charges. Uses standard caps.

10 DAY FREE TRIAL

Don't delay! Order now! If not 100% delighted simply return for prompt refund of full purchase price.

MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

HONOR HOUSE PRODUCTS CORP. Dept. H-2
LYNBROOK, NEW YORK

Rush me my exploding Hand Grenade at once. If I am not 100% delighted, I may return after 10 Day Free Trial for prompt refund of purchase price.

☐ I enclosed \$1 plus 25¢ shipping charges.

☐ Send C.O.D. I will pay postman on delivery & C.O.D. & shipping.

Name.....

Address.....

IS LIFE FRUSTRATING FOR YOU? DOES FORTUNE ALWAYS FROWN UPON YOU, GOOD LUCK PASS YOU BY? THEN TAKE HEART! FOR LIKE **JETHRO BATES**, YOU MAY SUDDENLY FIND THE KEY TO THE HIDDEN TREASURES OF THE EARTH! KEEP HOPING...FOR AFTER ALL...

YOU NEVER CAN TELL!



STORY: KERMIT LUNDGREN

ART: AL WILLIAMSON

YOU SEE THEM EVERYWHERE... THE STRANGE LITTLE MEN WITH QUIRKS IN THEIR BRAINS! MEN LIKE JETHRO BATES, WHO LOVED TO BID AT AUCTIONS...

SOLD FOR TWO DOLLARS... TO THE GENTLEMAN IN THE DERBY!

MY GOODNESS, BUT THIS TRUNK IS HEAVY! I WONDER WHAT I'LL FIND IN IT!

AFTER EACH VENTURE, HE WOULD SCURRY HOME TO GLOAT OVER HIS FIND...

SOUNDS LIKE A FALSE BOTTOM IN THIS TRUNK! THERE MAY BE SOMETHING VALUABLE INSIDE! **YOU NEVER CAN TELL!**

NOTHING DISCOURAGED JETHRO... NOT EVEN THE DAY HE WAS HIGH BIDDER ON A PROMISING-LOOKING BOX LUNCH AT A PACKAGE PARTY...

ONLY FIFTY CENTS FOR A BOX THAT SIZE! MUST BE A MIGHTY BIG MEAL INSIDE!

SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY FUND



THAT WAS THE DAY HE MET HIS WIFE,
THE CHARMING GRENDA...

OF COURSE YOU KNOW YOU HAVE
TO SHARE YOUR LUNCH WITH THE
GIRL WHO PREPARED IT, JETHRO!

OF COURSE! UMMMM!
I CAN'T **WAIT** TO SEE
WHAT'S IN IT!



GRENDA HOPED TO REFORM HIM
AFTER MARRIAGE, BUT MEN LIKE
JETHRO SELDOM CHANGE...

SEE, I **KNEW** THERE WAS A
SECRET COMPARTMENT IN THIS
BUREAU! WHO KNOWS WHAT I'LL
FIND INSIDE? **YOU NEVER
CAN TELL!**

PROBABLY SOME
OLD COLLAR BUTTONS
...OR MAYBE A MOULDY
RECIPE FOR DILL
PICKLES!



AND THEN, ONE FATEFUL DAY IN
THE CENTRAL RAILROAD TERMINAL--

MY, MY, AN
AUCTION!

AUCTION TODAY
UNCALLED FOR
AND ABANDONED
ARTICLES FROM
TERMINAL
CHECKROOM



THE FEW DOLLARS HE HAD WERE JUST ENOUGH FOR A
BID ON A QUEER-LOOKING SUITCASE...

GOODNESS, BUT IT'S HEAVY!
I JUST CAN'T **WAIT** UNTIL I
GET HOME TO SEE WHAT'S
INSIDE!



BUT BY NOW, GRENDA HAD LITTLE ENTHUSIASM
FOR JETHRO'S HOBBY...

SQUANDERING ALL OUR HARD-
EARNED MONEY ON THAT JUNK!
OUT OF HERE, YOU RATTLE-
BRAINED RUBBISH
COLLECTOR!

**CONTROL
YOURSELF,
GRENDA,
MY PET!**



UNDISMAYED, JETHRO DRAGGED HIS LOOT TO A NEARBY
VACANT LOT...

WHY IT LOOKS LIKE
A **DIVER'S SUIT!**
UM... I WONDER HOW
I'D LOOK IN IT?



ALWAYS AN ADVENTUROUS SOUL, HE TRIED
IT ON...

A PERFECT FIT! BUT
WHAT COULD THESE
DIALS BE FOR? I'LL
TRY TURNING THIS
ONE...



WHAT HAPPENED NEXT WAS **INCREDIBLE!** JETHRO FELT THE EARTH MELT AND DISSOLVE BENEATH HIS FEET---

AND THEN HE KNEW THE TRUTH... THE UNBELIEVABLE, FANTASTIC TRUTH---

WITHIN A FEW STEPS, HE CAME TO A HALT---SHIVERING WITH ANTICIPATION---



HEY, WHAT'S **THIS?**
I'M SINKING DOWN
INTO THE EARTH!



IT'S AN **EARTH-DIVING SUIT!** I CAN WALK THROUGH THE EARTH JUST AS EASILY AS A SKIN-DIVER CAN SWIM THROUGH THE WATER!



A TIN CAN---FILLED WITH MONEY! SOMEBODY MUST HAVE BURIED IT HERE LONG AGO!



THIS IS **IT!** THE REWARD FOR ALL THE YEARS OF SEARCHING, HOPING! WITH THIS SUIT, I CAN SEARCH OUT ALL THE BURIED TREASURE HIDDEN IN THE EARTH AND FORGOTTEN THERE!

IT WAS BEYOND BELIEF! IN A DELIRIUM OF JOY, JETHRO WADED THROUGH THE BOWELS OF THE EARTH, SEEKING OUT THE FANTASTIC WEALTH HIDDEN THERE IN AGES PAST!



PIECES OF EIGHT---IT MUST BE AN OLD PIRATE TREASURE, BURIED HERE FOR CENTURIES!



HOURS LATER---DEEP IN THE MILE-THICK ROCK UPON WHICH THE CITY RESTED---

AND THIS IS JUST THE **BEGINNING!** WITH THIS SUIT, I CAN DISCOVER THE MOST VALUABLE GOLD MINES AND DIAMOND FIELDS! THE WEALTH OF THE WORLD WILL BE MINE...MINE!



ON THE BRINK OF EXHAUSTION, HE LEFT HIS LOOT BEHIND HIM---

I'LL LEAVE IT ALL HERE, SEALED IN THE ROCK A MILE DOWN, WHERE NOBODY BUT ME CAN FIND IT! BUT I'LL TAKE ALONG A FEW PIECES OF EIGHT TO SHOW GREEDA!

JETHRO WAS STILL QUAKING WITH EXCITEMENT WHEN HE RETURNED TO THE SURFACE, IN THE MIDST OF THE VACANT LOT...



BUT NEITHER JETHRO NOR THE CLERK NOTICED THE STUB OF THE OLD CHECK STILL TIED TO THE HANDLE OF THE SUITCASE...



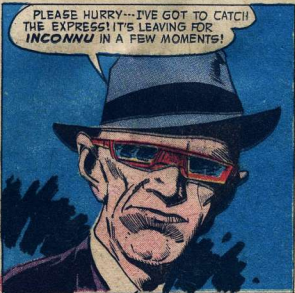
MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE TERMINAL CHECKROOM, A STRANGER ARGUED WITH A HARRIED RELIEF CLERK...



ON A SUDDEN IMPULSE, HE RETURNED TO THE RAILROAD TERMINAL...



BACK AT HOME...



INCONNU? BUT THERE'S NO SUCH STATION ON THIS LINE! I GUESS I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND HIM! COME TO THINK OF IT, HE **DID** SPEAK WITH A STRANGE KIND OF ACCENT!



IT WAS SOON AFTERWARD THAT JETHRO AND GRENDA ARRIVED AT THE CHECKROOM---

I'M SORRY, SIR, BUT I JUST GAVE THAT SUITCASE TO ANOTHER GENTLEMAN! THE ONE WHO SAID HE WAS GOING TO **INCONNU**!

BUT---BUT THAT **CAN'T** BE! **INCONNU** MEANS **THE UNKNOWN**!



WHEN THE TRUTH GOT THROUGH TO JETHRO, THE LITTLE MAN WENT BERSERK WITH GRIEF---

THERE'S **MILLIONS** DOWN THERE, I TELL YOU! **MILLIONS** IN GOLD AND JEWELS, AND MINE --- **ALL MINE!** AND I WANT IT **NOW!**

POOR GUY---HE'S FLIPPED HIS LID!



THAT WAS ALL SEVERAL YEARS AGO! BUT TO THIS DAY, JETHRO AND HIS WIFE HAUNT THE CITY'S AUCTION ROOMS---

THERE'S BATES AND HIS WIFE AGAIN! THOSE TWO CRACKPOTS BUY UP EVERY SUITCASE, TRUNK AND VALISE THEY CAN GET THEIR HANDS ON! WONDER WHAT THEY CAN BE AFTER?



THOUGH THEIR HOME OVERFLOWS WITH SECOND-HAND LUGGAGE, STILL THEY KEEP BUYING AND BUYING---

BUT GRENDA, WE'RE SPENDING EVERY PENNY WE HAVE IN THESE AUCTION ROOMS---IT'S HOPELESS! WE OUGHT TO GIVE UP!

NEVER! WHO KNOWS WHEN THAT EARTH DIVING SUIT MAY TURN UP AT SOME AUCTION AGAIN!



AFTER ALL, YOU NEVER CAN TELL WHEN OUR LUCK WILL TURN!

NO, YOU **NEVER** CAN TELL!



THE END!

EDITOR



Readers, the chairman of this month's meeting of "Adventures Into The Unknown" fans will be none other than Kurato Osaki, who wrote this issue's "Bridegroom For Jenny". Kurato, we think the folks would like to get to know you, so take over and tell them a few things about yourself! "Okay. I'm 24 years old, born in San Francisco of native-born parents who took me to New York shortly thereafter. I was in the 2nd grade when Pearl Harbor was bombed—and in a terrible pickle. All the kids had me figured for a Jap spy at the very least, no matter how loudly I protested that both myself and my parents were native-born, loyal Americans. I found myself doing everything strictly American that I could think of—and carrying around a stack of comics books was high on the list. Actually, I didn't start reading them until I was a bit older, and they opened up a great new world of adventure and thrills for me. I got so fascinated that I decided to try my hand at writing a comics story myself. This was when I was ten, and it was a super-duper thriller. Was I proud when it was accepted—and covered with grief when it was printed! It turned out that they'd published it for the laughs, hamming it up plenty. I still remember how I cried with shame, and it rankled for years afterward. So much so that I decided to teach these editors a lesson. All through high school, I made a close study of comics stories and what made them tick, and when I was at college, I began experimenting. Rejection slips taught me a lot. I kept on because I was determined, and I finally clicked. At least, I think I did! I'd like to know your opinions, readers. So please, write your letters to The Editor, 'Adventures Into The Unknown', 347 Fifth Avenue, New York 16, N. Y. Tell them what you think of this magazine, too—and then read what some of the other fans are saying!"

"Dear Editor:—

I've been a fan of 'Adventures Into The Unknown' for a long time. I think it's absolutely tops. Ogden Whitney is my favorite artist, though they are all excellent. The real test of a story is whether it's just as good on the second, third readings, etc., as it was the first time you read it—and all your stories can be read over and over. That goes for 'Forbidden Worlds' also. Both your books are the only magazines on the market that have fresh new stories in every issue. Others only have reworked versions of old stories. I don't think you've ever had a flop. It's just that some aren't quite as good as others, which is natural—I like the weird and supernatural stories best, but I realize you have to print a variety to please everyone. Lastly, I like your idea of identifying your artists and writers and printing biographical sketches of them.

—Jeanette Wilson, Lexington, N. C."

You're so right, Jeanette—about rereading being the test of a good yarn! We try for new angles continually, and have a pretty good batting average—but we know it's far from perfect. Sometimes we let a story go through that hasn't got the fresh originality we strive after—but we try to keep such cases at a minimum!

"Dear Editor:—

Before I say anything, I want to let you know that I like 'Adventures Into The Unknown' very much—it's the best on the stands today! But I do want to bring up the matter of your art work in 'The Strange Stone'. The tiger didn't look real, and I thought the women were supposed to be pretty! But I repeat—your magazine's far better than any other. My favorite stories have been 'The Strangeness of Mr. McGillicuddy' and 'The Endless Chain'. Not that I expect this letter to get past your desk, but I just wanted to make myself heard!

—Mike Bullard, Spangachlem, Germany"

About this matter of art, Mike. Every artist has his own distinctive style. Some are good at some things, not so good at others. There are some men who just can't draw a woman well—but there's no excuse for falling down when it comes to animals!

"Dear Editor:—

I have been reading 'Adventures Into The Unknown' for many years, and can say truly that it tops them all. I look forward to reading each issue, for I find that some of your stories bring out many things to think about. Because of them, my interest in the Unknown has increased tremendously. I find great pleasure in trying to arrive at the explanation for a lot of these mysteries. It is because of my interest in these things that I am now writing to you. I have noticed that in years gone by, you have carried stories about strange occurrences in the past that have never been explained. Would it be possible to send me as many stories of this kind as is possible? An adult friend and myself have decided that we would like to work together in the solution of these stories. Meanwhile, thanks for many hours of fine reading!

—John Doxey, Sparks, Nevada"

We wish we could help you in this project, John, but at present we can't. We clear our files of such material after it has been published. We believe, however, that books have been published which set forth cases like these. If we can get information on them, we'll send it to you.

"Dear Editor:—

Although I have read 'Adventures Into The Unknown' for years, I have never written you concerning your magazine. I just finished issue No. 101, and want you to

know my opinions. *'The Witch Who Wouldn't'* and *'He Pierced The Unknown'* were tremendous. The artwork of the latter was fantastically good. My congratulations to artist Ogden Whitney. However, there is always the other side of the ledger. The plots of *'Dream World'* and *'Inside The Mountain'* are all too familiar to me. I've seen stories with the same general idea behind them before. The artist who illustrated the witch story draws women well, but in some way, the method he uses to draw the facial features of men irritates me. The idea of telling who writes and illustrates each story is very good. One more thought: in your story *'Inside The Mountain'*, you showed the rocket ship completely cleared of asphalt. It would be almost impossible to accomplish this remarkable job of cleaning.

—Glenn Alford, Half Moon Bay, Calif."

Guiltily as charged on some of your charges, Glenn. We think that "Dream World" was a big mistake in the first place, both on story and art, and chalk it up to the bloopers which everyone pulls at some time or other. "Inside The Mountain" had no startling originality about it, but it did have an interesting approach we thought our readers might like. We showed the ship completely clear of asphalt only to drive the point of its identity home to all readers.

"Dear Editor:—

I just had to write you after reading your all-star No. 100 issue of *'Adventures Into The Unknown'*. It was just wonderful! I think that *'The Head Man'* was one of your very best tales. *'Preliminary Hearing'* was a good story with an unusual twist to it. *'Phantom Submarine'* was very good, considering how short it was. And *'Nothing Ever Happens To Halloran'* was just super! All I can say is that if every issue of *'Adventures Into The Unknown'* were as good as No. 100, your circulation would double! An everlasting fan—

—Stuart Dobbs, Dallas, Tex."

It's nice knowing that you liked the anniversary issue on which we worked so hard. Stuart. We're glad to state that you've got lots of company, since the response from our fans has been enthusiastic. There's been one notable exception, however. Just read the following letter, and learn what editors have to put up with once in awhile!

"Dear Editor:—

I have just finished reading your 100th issue. You know, the so-called all-star issue. In general, it was the worst issue you have ever put out. *'Nothing Ever Happens To Halloran'* was excellent, but the other three stories were not worth putting into print. They were all terrible, as the large majority of your stories are. Also, I would like to commend the writer who writes all of your fake letters. He really does a good job. Here I am referring to the fake letter that you printed from a captain after you got a crank letter from PFC John Lang, with whom I agree fully. You always have to outdo your crank letters, don't you? In the front of your terrible mag, you say that all

rights are reserved to your mag. This is not necessary, because no one would copy your book anyway. In general, the advertising in your stupid publication is more interesting than the stories. If you have the courage, I dare you to print all of this letter in that lousy mag which is 'so close to your hearts', ha-ha! I will probably never see this letter in your book, because you can't afford to lose even a few of your readers. In signing off, let me say that you have one of the lousiest books published. So print that in your mag and eat it. Bet you won't print this letter.

—Jim Unger, La Celle St. Cloud, France"

Here we go again! Listen, mister, you don't have to like our magazine. You're privileged to hate it, if that's your inclination. But if you have honest complaints, state them. Has decency gone out of fashion, that you have to use insults? If this was our worst issue, you must have read many of them to reach that conclusion—and yet you point out how terrible the large majority of our stories are. You must be a sucker for punishment, then. About "fake" letters—we'll probably get many letters from people just like you, charging that yours was a fake letter!

"Dear Editor:—

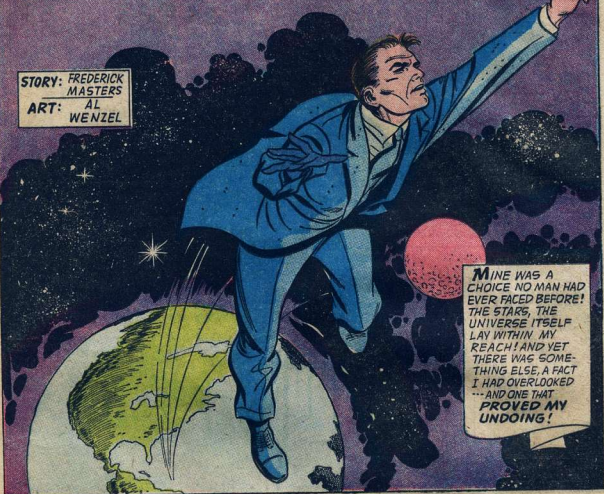
I've never written to any comics magazine before, but felt that one as fine as your *'Adventures Into The Unknown'* deserves every bit of praise that I, or anyone else, can give you. I have a list of things to mention, so I'll get right to them. First, my very best congratulations on your 100th anniversary, all-star issue. Every story was realistic and imaginative. My favorites were *'The Head Man'* and *'Nothing Ever Happens To Halloran'*. I like stories about robots and have read quite a few. But *'The Head Man'* was one of the best. I sure will be looking forward to more of this type of story! Second, I think that your *'Let's Talk It Over'* department, with two whole pages, is a grand idea. It gives your readers a chance to express their likes and dislikes about your magazine. Third, why not have an annual of your best stories? Fourth, I like *'Annals Of The Occult'* very much, but one thing puzzles me. Are these stories true, or just fiction? Fifth, would it be possible to get back issues, say from numbers 90 to 99? I had these issues before, but they seem to have disappeared—mainly because of my friends, who enjoy reading your magazine. I must have been crazy to part with your wonderful books! Lastly, I know that both *'Adventures Into The Unknown'* and *'Forbidden Worlds'* are fine magazines that I will be proud to own. If they are kept that way, which I am quite sure they will, you can consider me a reader for life.

—Bernard Hess, Ponca City, Okla."

Thanks a lot for the nice things you've said, Bernard. We hope that we'll continue to be worthy of them! About back issues—we're sorry, but they aren't available at present. If this should change, we'll let you know.

RETURN JOURNEY

STORY: **FREDERICK
MASTERS**
ART: **AL
WENZEL**

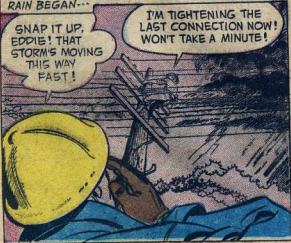


**MINE WAS A
CHOICE NO MAN HAD
EVER FACED BEFORE!
THE STARS, THE
UNIVERSE ITSELF
LAY WITHIN MY
REACH! AND YET
THERE WAS SOME-
THING ELSE, A FACT
I HAD OVERLOOKED
...AND ONE THAT
PROVED MY
UNDOING!**

**IT ALL BEGAN ON THE DAY WHEN OUR REPAIR
CREW WAS MAKING SOME ROUTINE CHECKS ON A
LINE JUST OUTSIDE THE TOWN OF WESTBROOK!
I WAS JUST TIDYING THINGS UP WHEN THE
RAIN BEGAN...**

**SNAP IT UP,
EDDIE! THAT
STORM'S MOVING
THIS WAY
FAST!**

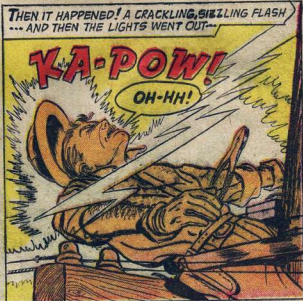
**I'M TIGHTENING THE
LAST CONNECTION NOW!
WON'T TAKE A MINUTE!**



**THEN IT HAPPENED! A CRACKLING, SIZZLING FLASH
... AND THEN THE LIGHTS WENT OUT...**

KA-POW!

OH-HH!



THE BLACKOUT WAS OF SHORT DURATION, AND I WAS DISTINCTLY AWARE OF BOB COMING TO MY AID, DISENTANGLING ME FROM THE FOULED LINES AND CARRYING ME DOWN! AND I HEARD THEM TALKING, AND THAT WAS THE STRANGEST PART OF ALL...

HE'S OUT COLD! WE'VE GOT TO GET HIM TO A HOSPITAL!

RIGHT! I'LL GET THE STRETCHER FROM THE TRUCK!



I REMEMBERED THE RIDE TO THE HOSPITAL, THE DOCTOR WHO EXAMINED ME IN EMERGENCY...

H-HOW IS HE, DOC?

I'M AFRAID, BOYS! CAN'T HEAR A THING...NOT EVEN A FLUTTER!



WAIT, I CAN HEAR IT... A **HEARTBEAT!** IT MUST HAVE STARTED UP AGAIN! IT'S GETTING STRONGER!



YES, I CREATED QUITE A STIR, AND THE FUNNY PART OF IT WAS THAT I KNEW WHAT WAS GOING ON, EVERY SINGLE SECOND OF IT...

ONE OF THE STRANGEST COMATOSE CASES I'VE EVER EXPERIENCED! THE MAN IS IN A COMPLETE STATE OF BLACKOUT, AND YET PULSE, HEARTBEAT, RESPIRATION ARE ABSOLUTELY **NORMAL!**

AND ALL ATTEMPTS TO BRING HIM AROUND HAVE **FAILED!**



AT THE MOMENT, GENTLEMEN, THERE IS NOTHING FURTHER WE CAN TRY! SEE THAT A NURSE IS IN ATTENDANCE AT ALL TIMES AND ARRANGE FOR INTRAVENOUS FEEDINGS AT PRESCRIBED INTERVALS!



I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG AFTERWARDS IT HAPPENED, BUT I WAS SUDDENLY CONSCIOUS OF A STRANGE FEELING...A TINGLING THAT RIPPLED THROUGH MY BODY...



I CAN'T HOPE TO MAKE YOU BELIEVE WHAT HAPPENED NEXT... BUT IT **DID!** THERE I WAS AT THE FOOT OF THE BED, STARING DOWN AT MY OWN MOTIONLESS BODY...

IT'S **IMPOSSIBLE!**

I'M NO LONGER IN MY BODY, AND YET I FEEL NO DIFFERENT THAN ALWAYS! I KNOW I'M NOT DEAD... BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND! W-WHAT'S HAPPENED TO ME?



THEN I HEARD THE VOICE, CALLING MY NAME! THINGS BEGAN TO SWIM BEFORE MY EYES, AND THEN THE FIGURE EMERGED FROM OUT OF THE GREYING MIST...

I HAVE COME FOR YOU, EDDIE WHITE... TO GIVE YOU A CHOICE NO MAN HAS EVER HAD BEFORE!

YOU KNOW MY NAME! WHO ARE YOU?

WHO I AM IS UNIMPORTANT--BUT WHAT I HAVE TO SAY IS! BY ALL THE LAWS THAT GOVERN MANKIND, YOU SHOULD HAVE DIED WHEN THE LIGHTNING STRUCK! BUT SOMETHING WENT WRONG, LEAVING YOU IN THE TWILIGHT ZONE... IN MY REALM!

YOUR REALM? WHERE AM I?

NEVER MIND THAT... A CHOICE MUST BE MADE, AND YOU MUST MAKE IT NOW!

WHAT CHOICE?

I CAN RETURN YOU TO YOUR BODY AND BRING YOU OUT OF YOUR COMA...OR YOU CAN CONTINUE AS YOU ARE NOW, NOT FOR AN ORDINARY LIFE SPAN, BUT FOR **ALL ETERNITY!** TIME WILL BE NO BARRIER TO YOU, NOR DISTANCE! THE UNIVERSE CAN BE YOURS, TO ROAM IN AS YOU PLEASE!

THE UNIVERSE... ETERNITY...

MY BRAIN WHIRLED, AND THEN BY CHANCE I NOTICED SOMETHING FOR THE FIRST TIME...

HIS FEET... CLOVEN HOOFS! WHAT CAN IT MEAN?

HURRY, EDDIE WHITE! TIME RUNS OUT! DECIDE NOW!

THE UNIVERSE, ALL MINE TO ROAM IN! TIME NO BARRIER! NO MAN HAS EVER BEEN OFFERED AS MUCH BEFORE! I'D BE A **FOOL** TO TURN IT DOWN!

AND SO I MADE MY FATEFUL CHOICE...

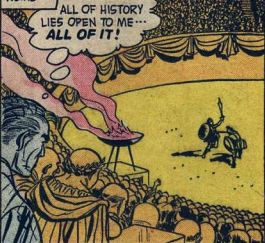
I...I'LL STAY THIS WAY...WITH ALL THE POWER YOU DESCRIBED!

SO BE IT! ALL WORLDS NOW LIE OPEN TO YOU! THE PAST, THE FUTURE AND THOSE AMONGST THE STARS! ALL YOU NEED DO IS **THINK** YOURSELF THERE! FAREWELL, EDDIE WHITE... **FAREWELL**...

IT WAS TRUE, EVERY WORD OF IT! I GAVE MY IMAGINATION FREE RANGE--AND THERE I WAS, BACK ALMOST AT THE BEGINNING, WITNESSING THE BREATH-TAKING STRUGGLE OF OUR PLANET'S DAWN--



THROUGH THE CORRIDORS OF TIME I TRAVELED, AND I STOOD BEHIND NERO HIMSELF AS HE CHEERED THE GLADIATORS IN THE VAST COLOSSEUM IN ANCIENT ROME--



FROM THE PAST I WENT TO THE FUTURE, AND I SAW THE THRILLING SPECTACLE OF MAN'S FIRST ROCKET AS IT LEFT EARTH FOR THE PLANET MARS--



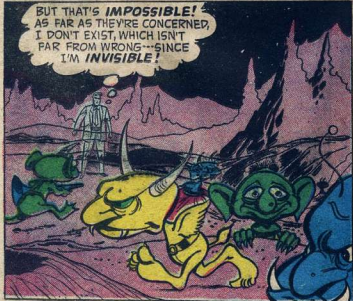
DISTANCE WAS NO BARRIER EITHER, AND SO I TOOK TO THE STARS--



I VISITED PLANETS FAR BEYOND THE REALM OF OUR OWN GALAXY! WORLDS FAR DIFFERENT THAN OUR OWN--WORLDS OF BREATHLESS EXCITEMENT--



BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! AS FAR AS THEY'RE CONCERNED, I DON'T EXIST, WHICH ISN'T FAR FROM WRONG--SINCE I'M INVISIBLE!

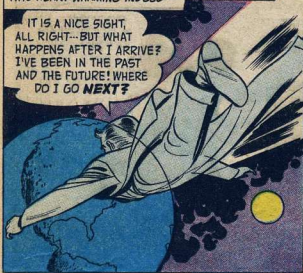


IT'S BEEN INTERESTING AND ALL, ONLY I'M BEGINNING TO WONDER! IT'S ALL SO ONE-SIDED! ALL I AM IS A SPECTATOR! SEEING THINGS, ALL KINDS OF WONDERFUL THINGS, BUT NOT TAKING PART IN THEM!



SO BACK I WENT, AND THE SIGHT OF DEAR OLD EARTH WAS HEART-WARMING INDEED...

IT IS A NICE SIGHT, ALL RIGHT... BUT WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I ARRIVE? I'VE BEEN IN THE PAST AND THE FUTURE! WHERE DO I GO **NEXT?**



SO I CHOSE THE PRESENT TIME... A BOWLING ALLEY WHERE I USED TO PLAY WITH MY FRIENDS! NOTHING HAD CHANGED EXCEPT ONE THING...

I'M NOT WITH THEM... AND THE FUN WE USED TO HAVE! I LOOKED FORWARD TO THESE NIGHTS! I SURE DID!



FUNNY, I WAS JUST THINKING ABOUT **EDDIE!** THE TIMES WE USED TO HAVE! WHAT A BALL THEY WERE!

THAT'S THE TRUTH ALL RIGHT, AND NOW HE'S OUT OF THE PICTURE! IT'S SURE HARD TO TAKE!



IN THAT MOMENT, I RECOGNIZED MY TRAGIC ERROR! WHAT WAS THE GOOD OF ETERNAL LIFE IF IT ROBBED YOU OF COMPANIONSHIP... THE ONE THING THAT MADE LIFE PURPOSEFUL AND WORTH-WHILE...

I'VE BEEN A **FOOL!** IF I ONLY HAD THE CHANCE TO CHANGE THINGS BACK THE WAY THEY **WERE!**



THEN I HEARD IT AGAIN... THE STRANGE, HOLLOW-TONED VOICE OF THE MYSTERIOUS CLOAKED FIGURE! ONCE AGAIN, A GREY MIST SWIRLED AROUND ME...

SO YOU **REPENT**, EDDIE WHITE! YOU **REGRET** YOUR CHOICE!

YES! I WAS WRONG! WHAT I GAINED IS FAR LESS THAN WHAT I LOST... AND I MUST GO ON THIS WAY, FOR ALL ETERNITY!



PERHAPS **NOT!** THE POWERS THAT BE HAVE REVIEWED YOUR CASE... AND HAVE BEEN **LENIENT!** THEY GRANT YOU THE RIGHT TO **GO BACK!** TO TAKE YOUR PLACE IN YOUR OWN WORLD ONCE MORE, AS YOU DID IN THE PAST!

I... I CAN GO BACK? I CAN?



IT WAS SNOWING WHEN WE REACHED THE STEPS OF THE HOSPITAL! OUR JOURNEY WAS ALMOST AT AN END...

YOUR BODY, YOUR PHYSICAL SELF, IS IN THE SAME ROOM AS WHEN YOU LEFT! NOTHING HAS CHANGED, EXCEPT THE PASSAGE OF TIME!

I REALIZE THAT! I WAS INJURED IN THE SPRING, AND NOW IT'S SNOWING! IT'S ALL OF SIX MONTHS GONE BY!



WE ENTERED THE HOSPITAL ROOM---AND THEN A CRACKLING SOUND RANG OUT! MY BODY QUIVERED AS THOUGH I WAS STRUCK BY A SUDDEN HIGH VOLTAGE---

OH--
HH!

THE NEXT MOMENT I WAS IN BED, STARING AT THE STARTLED NURSE---AND MY HOODED COMPANION WAS GONE---

DOCTOR
WEBSTER!
QUICK! HE'S
COME TO!

IT WAS QUITE A MOMENT, BUT THE REAL SHOCK WAS THE PASSAGE OF TIME! MY BLACKOUT HADN'T BEEN FOR A DURATION OF SIX MONTHS, BUT SIX YEARS---

AND I'VE BEEN IN THIS STRANGE COMA ALL THESE YEARS?

THAT'S RIGHT! QUITE FRANKLY, WE WERE BEGINNING TO GIVE UP ON YOU!

OF COURSE, COMAS OF THIS KIND WILL VARY FROM PATIENT TO PATIENT! SOME SUFFER A COMPLETE PERIOD OF BLACK-OUT, WHILE OTHERS HAVE HALLUCINATIONS OR DREAMS OF A STRANGE, LIFELIKE NATURE!

I SEE---

IT SET ME WONDERING! WAS THAT ALL IT HAD BEEN---A DREAM, AN HALLUCINATION? I MADE THEM WHEEL ME TO THE WINDOW! IT WAS SNOWING, JUST THE SAME AS WHEN I HAD ENTERED THE BUILDING, AND THERE IN THE NEWLY-FALLEN SNOW, I SAW THEM---

CLOVEN
HOOF-PRINTS!
IT WAS NO
DREAM!

YES, IT'S THE SAME OLD WORLD OUT THERE, EVEN IF YOU **HAVE** BEEN OUT OF IT, SO TO SPEAK! OF COURSE, LOSING SIX YEARS OUT OF ONE'S LIFE IS QUITE A LOSS!

YES, DOCTOR, BUT NOTHING IS EVER A **TOTAL** LOSS! IN A WAY, I **LEARNED** SOMETHING TOO, STRANGE AS IT MAY SOUND!

I COULDN'T TELL THEM MY STORY! BUT WHEN I SPOKE AGAIN, EVERY WORD CAME STRAIGHT FROM MY HEART---

IT'S WONDERFUL TO BE PART OF THINGS AGAIN, TO KNOW YOU **BELONG**! ANY WAY YOU LOOK AT IT, I'M A **VERY LUCKY** GUY!

THE
END

He had come from the stars across the unmeasured vastness of space--the first of a race of conquerors who planned to enslave the earth! How could he know that a sardonic fate had chosen him as --

A Bridegroom for Jenny!



STORY: KUREATO
OSAKI
ART: JON
DIEHL

TOADSTOOL JENNY LIVED BY SELLING HER SPELLS, CHARMS AND HERBS TO THE PEOPLE OF THE BAYOU COUNTRY --

BUT CHIDE IS THE PRETTIEST GIRL IN HOG HOLLOW! HOW CAN I MAKE HER LOVE ME?

IT'S EASY, DOGFACE! JUST TWO DROPS OF MY SPECIAL LOVE POTION -- AND THE SECRET INGREDIENTS WILL DO THE REST!

YES, THE MOST POPULAR ITEM JENNY SOLD WAS HER LOVE PHILTHER -- GUARANTEED TO WORK OR YOUR MONEY BACK --

IT WORKED, JENNY -- AND NOW SHE'S MINE! GOSH, WHAT DO YOU PUT IN THOSE LOVE POTIONS, ANYHOW?

OH, SOME POWDERED MANDRAKE ROOT, SWAMP WATER AND FRESH DEW FROM A SKUNK CABBAGE -- THE REST IS A TRADE SECRET!

BUT THOUGH HER CHARMS WON HAPPINESS FOR OTHERS, JENNY HERSELF WORSHIPPED AN UNOBTAINABLE DREAM...

AND NOW FOLLOW THE ADVENTURES OF CAPTAIN MARVIN -- MAN OF THE FUTURE AND GUARDIAN OF LAW AND ORDER ACROSS THE UNCHARTED REALMS OF SPACE!

ALL THEM MUSCLES! SIGH! ISN'T HE JUST WONDERFUL?



THE KINDLY FOLK OF ROG HOLLOW TRIED TO TALK JENNY OUT OF HER OBSESSION--

JENNY, YOU'RE JUST WASTING YOUR TIME MOONING OVER THAT SPACE MAN ON TV! WHY DON'T YOU USE THAT LOVE POTION OF YOURS AND GET YOURSELF A REAL LIVE MAN OF YOUR OWN?

'TAIN'T WORTH IT, GRANNY-- I'D NEVER BE HAPPY WITH HIM! NO MORTAL MAN CAN MEASURE UP TO CAPTAIN MARVIN!



MOST PEOPLE WOULD HAVE HURRIED OUT TO SEE WHERE THE STAR HAD FALLEN, BUT JENNY WAS TOO SENSIBLE --

BLUE SHOOTING STARS! HEE, HEE! GUESS I'VE BEEN WATCHING TOO MANY CAPTAIN MARVIN SHOWS! I'M BEGINNING TO SEE THINGS... RECKON I'D BETTER GO TO BED AND SLEEP IT OFF!



THEN, LATE ONE NIGHT, AS JENNY SAT DREAMING OF THE MARVELOUS MARVIN, SUDDENLY --

THAT BIG BLUE SHOOTING STAR! IT'S HEADED RIGHT FOR FISHTAIL SWAMP!



BUT, UNKNOWN TO JENNY, A STRANGE DRAMA WAS TAKING PLACE IN THE DEPTHS OF FISHTAIL SWAMP --

OBSERVER GORM CALLING BASE! BASE, DO YOU READ ME? MY FUEL SUPPLY IS EXHAUSTED! I WAS FORCED TO LAND ON TERRA -- POSITION UNKNOWN! OBSERVER GORM CALLING BASE!



IT'S NO USE -- MY COMMUNICATOR IS WRECKED! AND I WAS DETAILED TO GET THIS SPECIAL SURVEY COMPLETED BEFORE OUR INVASION OF TERRA! ...THERE'S NOTHING TO DO BUT FIND A NEW SOURCE OF URANIUM FUEL FOR THE SHIP!



A SEARCH OF THE SWAMP ENVIRONS BROUGHT SUCCESS! BY DAWN --

I'M IN LUCK -- THE DETECTOR UNIT SHOWS URANIUM ORE BURIED IN THIS EARTH BANK! I CAN USE A DISINTEGRATOR TO DIG IT OUT!



I'LL HAVE TO PROTECT THE SHIP WHILE I'M WORKING ON THAT ORE! I'LL SET UP THE DEFENSIVE FORCE FIELD -- THAT SHOULD DO THE TRICK!



A TOUCH OF GORM'S FINGER ON A BUTTON AND A STRANGE PARALYSIS GRIPPED THE COUNTRY-SIDE! FOR MILES AROUND, NO LIVING THING COULD STIR OR MOVE...



ALL LIFE IN THE BAYOU COUNTRY CAME TO A STANDSTILL! EVERYTHING STOOD MOTIONLESS--EXCEPT TOADSTOOL JENNY, OF COURSE...

FUNNY, ALL MY JOINTS FEEL KIND OF STIFF ALL OF A SUDDEN! IF I DIDN'T KNOW BETTER, I'D SAY SOMEONE WAS TRYING TO PUT A SPELL ON ME -- EXCEPT NO ONE CAN HEX A CONJURE WOMAN!



THAT STIFFNESS IN MY JOINTS REMINDS ME -- I'D BETTER GO DOWN AND DELIVER THIS POTION FOR GRANNY BROWN'S RHEUMATIZ! I PROMISED HER TO BRING IT!



BUT WHEN JENNY ARRIVED IN TOWN --

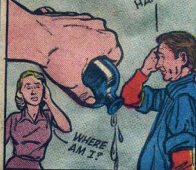
GLORY BE -- THE WHOLE TOWN'S STANDING AROUND -- FROZEN FAST ON ITS FEET! SOMEONE MUST HAVE PUT A SPELL ON 'EM! LUCKY I'VE GOT THIS RHEUMATIZ POTION WITH ME -- I CAN USE IT TO BREAK THE SPELL!



WITH A SWIFT MOTION AND A MUTTERED INCANTATION, JENNY INVOKED HER POWERS --

PEOPLE WALK! MOVE AND TALK!

HUH? WHAT HAPPENED?



NEVER HAD HOG HOLLOW SEEN THE LIKE! ONLY JENNY HAD A POSSIBLE EXPLANATION --

BUT WHO'D CAST A SPELL ON US, JENNY? UNLESS THERE'S ANOTHER WITCH AROUND SOMEWHERE -- SOMEONE WHO'S JUST MOVED INTO THE NEIGHBORHOOD!

MAYBE YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING THERE! COME TO THINK OF IT, I SAW A BIG BLUE LIGHT COMING DOWN FROM THE SKY YESTERDAY! IT LANDED IN FISHTAIL SWAMP!



A BLUE LIGHT IN FISHTAIL SWAMP, HEY? COME ON, WE'D BETTER CHECK ON THIS!

IF THERE'S ANOTHER WITCH AROUND, I'LL SHOW HER A THING OR TWO! WHY, I'VE GOT A DOZEN GOOD SPELLS THAT I NEVER EVEN USED YET!





BUT IN THE DEPTHS OF THE SWAMP...

LOOK THERE! A SPACESHIP! IT LOOKS LIKE ONE OF THEM SPACE PROGRAMS ON TV!

AND THAT FELLER THERE-- HE'S THE SPITTIN' IMAGE OF CAPTAIN MARVIN! DUHHH!



TERRAN NATIVES! SOMETHING'S GONE **WRONG!** MY FORCE FIELD MUST HAVE BEEN TOO WEAK TO CONTROL THEM!



WELL, I CAN USE THESE ABORIGINES TO HELP ME MINE THAT URANIUM ORE! BUT FIRST I'LL HAVE TO CONTROL THEM WITH MY **HYPNOTIC RAY GUN!**

SAY, THAT'S A **RAY GUN!** JUST LIKE **CAPTAIN MARVIN** ON THE TELEVISION!

AND AS THE INFATUATED JENNY WATCHED IN FASCINATION, GORM BROUGHT THE CROWD UNDER CONTROL --



TERRESTRIALS, YOU ARE IN MY POWER AND MUST OBEY MY COMMANDS! PROCEED AT ONCE TO THAT EARTH BANK AND DIG OUT THE URANIUM ORE YOU'LL FIND THERE!

WE -- WILL OBEY --



IT WAS THEN THAT THE ALIEN CAUGHT SIGHT OF THE WORSHIPFUL JENNY --

GOSH, MISTER, YOU LOOK JUST LIKE **MARVELOUS MARVIN!**

MY NAME IS **GORM**, EARTH WOMAN!

IT'S **AMAZING!** MY HYPNOTIC RAY DIDN'T AFFECT HER IN THE **LEAST!**



LOATHSOME AS YOU ARE, YOU ARE OBVIOUSLY SUPERIOR TO THOSE OTHERS! EARTH WOMAN, HOLD STILL WHILE I TELEPROBE YOUR MIND!

GO RIGHT AHEAD, MISTER GORM! IT'S ALL RIGHT WITH ME -- ESPECIALLY AFTER ALL THE NICE THINGS YOU SAID!



WITH HIS TELEPATHIC POWERS, GORM SEARCHED JENNY'S BRAIN -- BUT WHAT HE SAW THERE MADE HIS SKIN CRAWL --

LOVE! UGH! HOW UTTERLY PRIMITIVE AND BARBARIAN!

IT'S **TRUE**, MISTER GORM -- IT WAS **LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT!** HOW COULD I HELP IT? YOU'RE JUST AS HANDSOME AND STRONG AS CAPTAIN MARVIN!

(CONTINUED ON PAGE AFTER NEXT)

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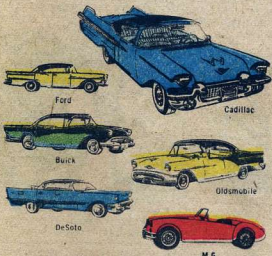
Gentlemen:

I can't wait to see if these model cars are all you say they are. Enclosed please find \$..... in check ☐, money order ☐, cash ☐, for sets of MODEL CARS each at \$1 plus 25c for postage and handling per set. If I am disappointed in the slightest, I will send them back to you for refund as per your guarantee. (Sorry, No. C.O.D.'s)

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BUT HER FRIENDS MOVED AS IF IN A TRANCE! JENNY WAS FRANTIC WITH FRUSTRATION --



FOR A MOMENT SHE PAUSED BEFORE HER CAPTIVE FRIENDS ... THEN, WITH A WAVE OF HER HAND, SHE SCATTERED A PINCH OF DUST...



SWIFTLY, JENNY EXPLAINED THE SITUATION TO HER FRIENDS --

--AND THAT'S THE WHOLE STORY! HE HAD YOU ALL UNDER THE SPELL OF HIS RAY GUN--USING YOU TO DIG FOR HIM! AND ALL THE WHILE HE WAS SWEET-TALKING ME, PRETENDING HE LOVED ME!

COME ON, WE'LL FIX THAT NO-GOOD!



SUDDENLY --

STUPID PRIMITIVES! YOU THINK YOU CAN DEFEAT GORM? WAIT, MY DISINTEGRATORS WILL TEACH YOU TO OBEY ME!

STAND BACK, EVERYBODY!



JENNY'S HAND FLASHED OUT, QUICKER THAN THE EYE COULD SEE--

DUST OF MANDRAKE, FLY ON HIGH! DIM HIS VISION, BLIND HIS EYE!

NO! DON'T!



EVERYTHING IS IN A FOG-- I CAN'T SEE!

BUT I SEE CLEARLY NOW, GORM! SEIZE HIM, FRIENDS!



AT THAT MOMENT, ON A DISTANT PLANET, ANXIOUS EYES WERE WATCHING --

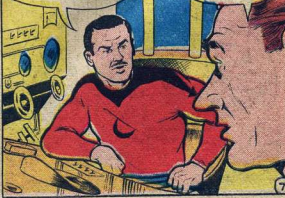
DID YOU SEE THAT? EVEN AN EARTH WOMAN THOUGH GORM HAD A DISINTEGRATOR GUN, THEY DISARMED HIM!

--SHE DID IT WITH A MERE WAVE OF HER HAND!



WELL, I GUESS THAT'S THE END OF GORM! WE'D BETTER REPORT BACK TO THE HIGH COMMAND! THOSE PEOPLE OF TERRA HAVE WEAPONS WE CANNOT BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND!

YOU'RE RIGHT! WE CANNOT HOPE TO CONQUER THEM! WE MUST FIND ANOTHER SOLAR SYSTEM TO COLONIZE!



MEANWHILE, BACK ON EARTH --

DON'T WORRY, JENNY-- WE'LL MAKE THIS FURRINER PAY FOR WHAT HE DID!

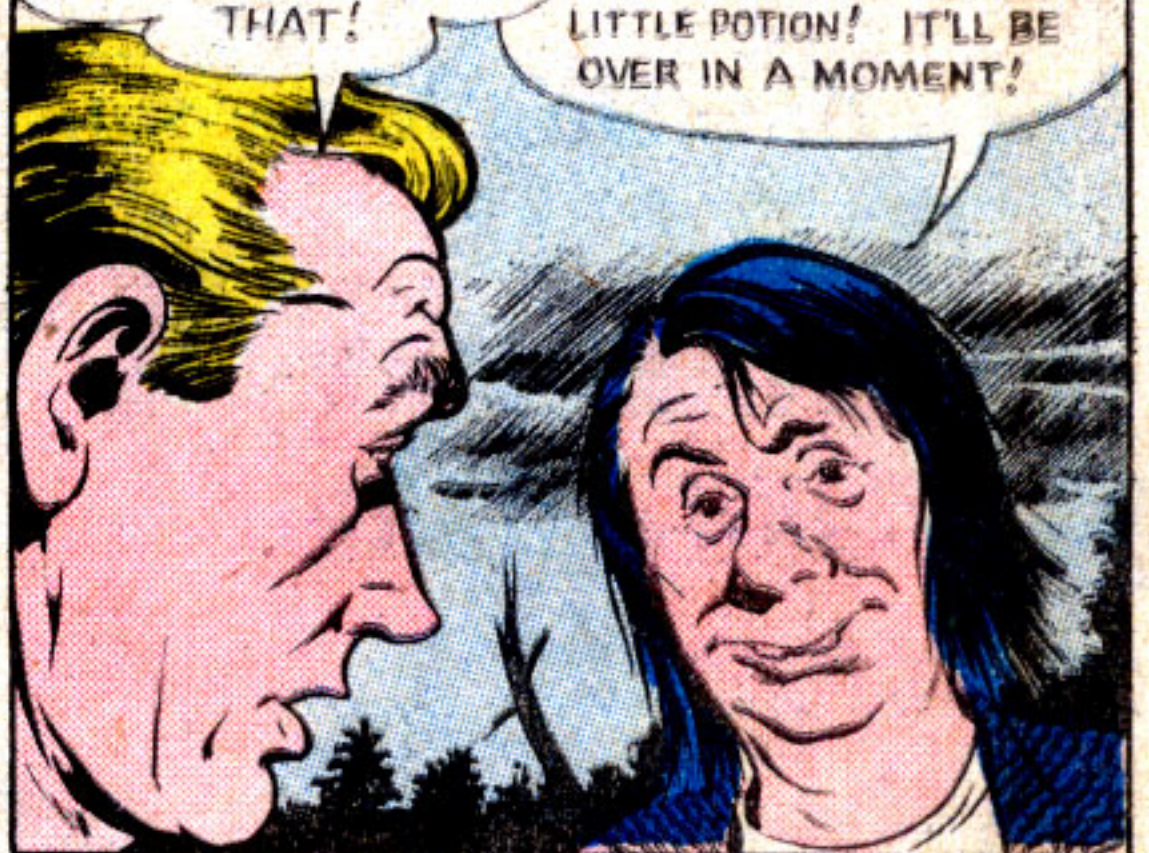
NO, WAIT A MINUTE -- PUNISHIN' A HANDSOME FELLER LIKE THAT IS A SHAMEFUL WASTE! I'VE GOT **ANOTHER** IDEA!



JENNY STEPPED INTO HER CABIN AND SHE REAPPEARED A MOMENT LATER! GORM INSTINCTIVELY KNEW HER INTENTIONS...

OH, NO! NOT **THAT!** ANYTHING BUT **THAT!**

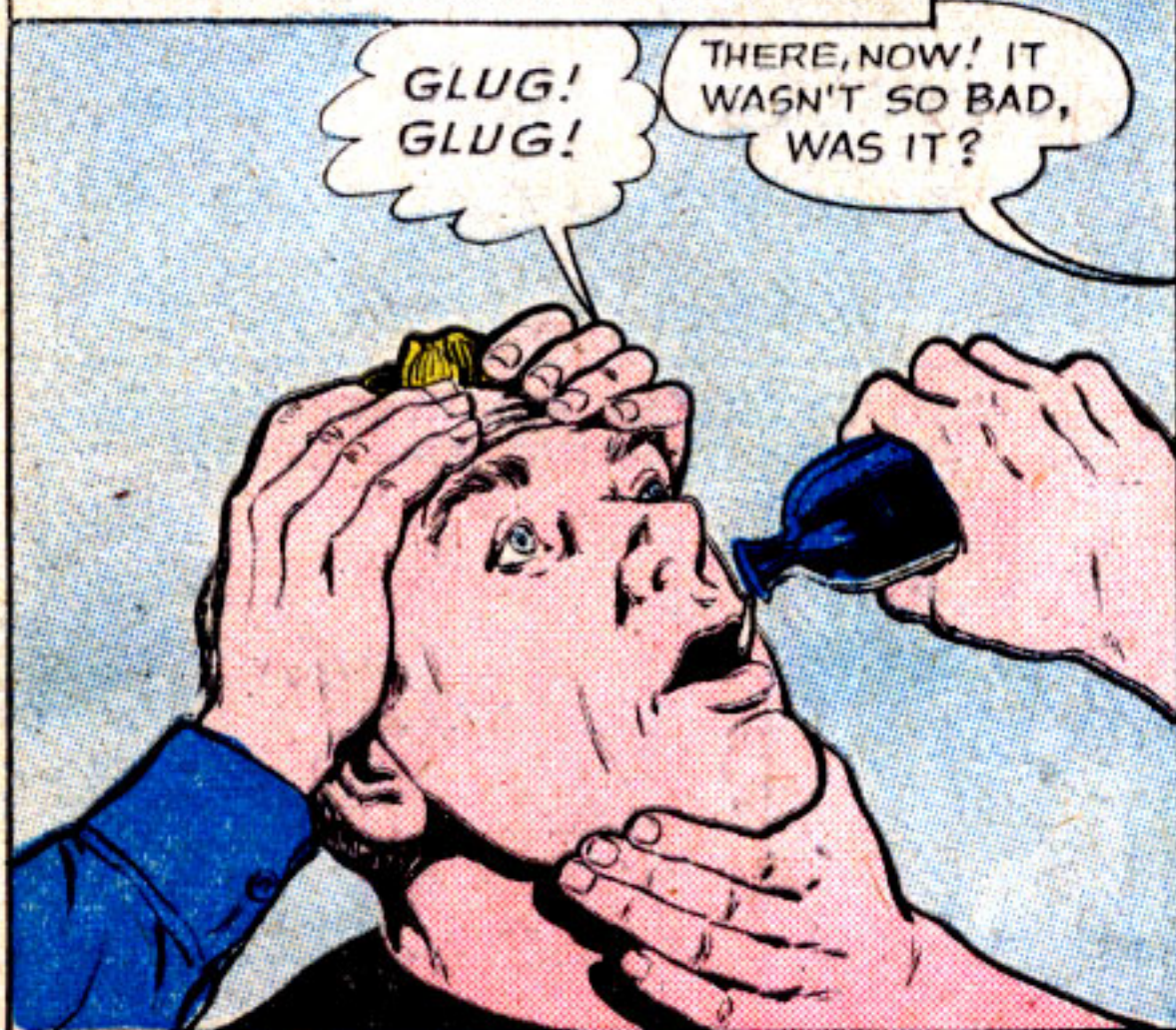
OH, COME NOW, GORM! --IT'S ONLY A HARMLESS LITTLE POTION! IT'LL BE OVER IN A MOMENT!



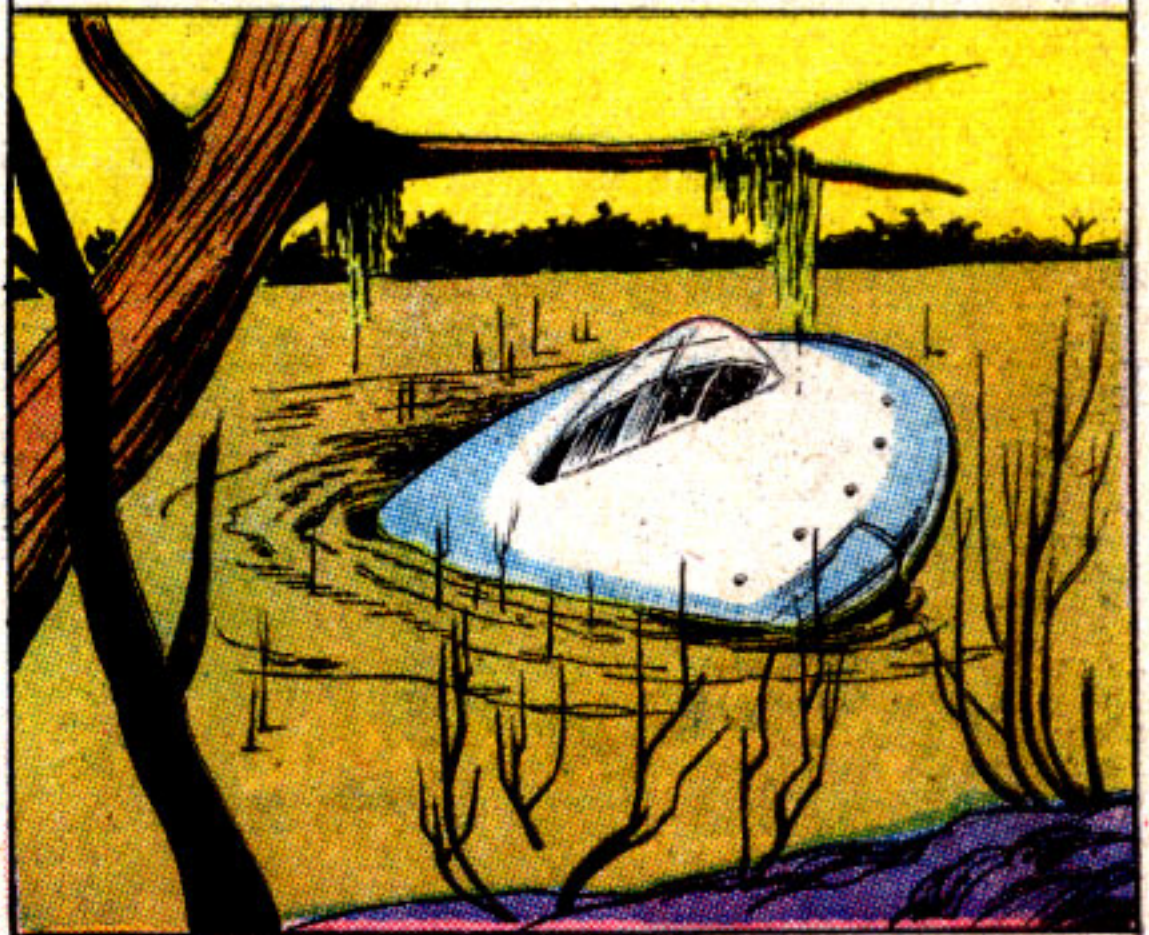
AS HE FELT THE SLOW TRICKLE OF A STRANGE FLUID IN HIS THROAT--

GLUG! GLUG!

THERE, NOW! IT WASN'T SO BAD, WAS IT?



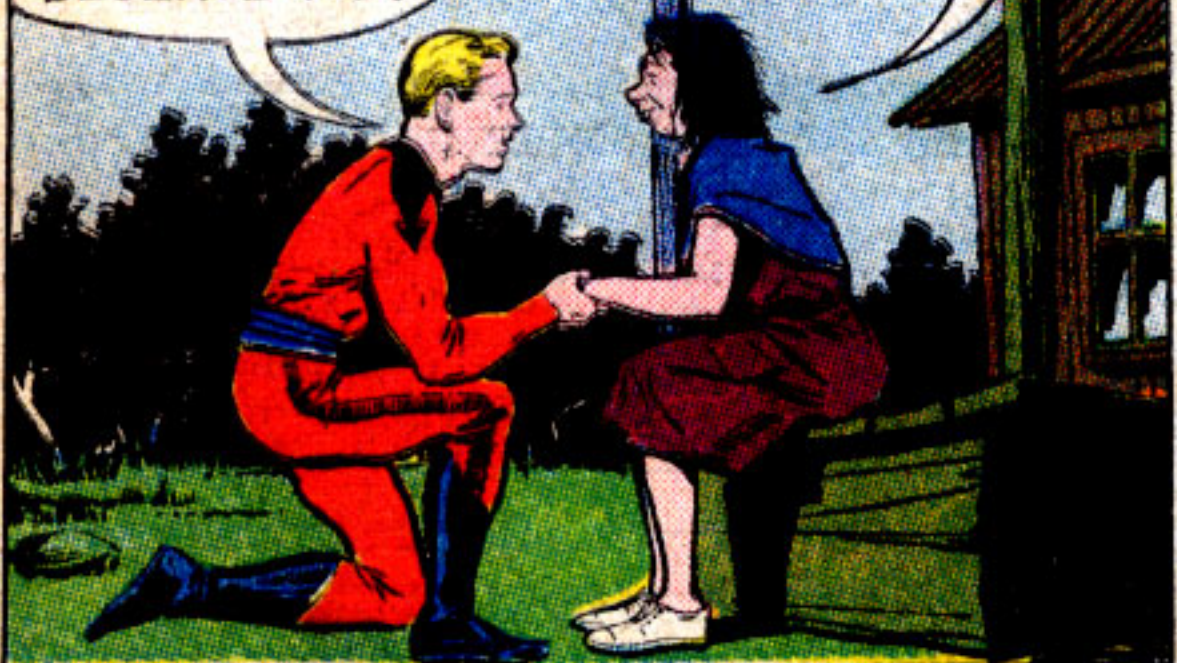
IT'S ALL OVER AND FORGOTTEN NOW! OUT IN THE BAYOU COUNTRY, THE RUSTING HULK OF A SPACESHIP HAS ALMOST VANISHED INTO THE MUDDY BOG...



THE BAYOU PEOPLE ARE HAPPY ONCE MORE! BUT HAPPIEST OF ALL ARE JENNY-- AND HER NEW HUSBAND! OF COURSE, SHE'S CHANGED HIS NAME NOW --

OH, JENNY, JENNY! YOU'RE SO LOVELY-- SO COMPLETELY BEAUTIFUL -- WHAT DID I EVER DO TO DESERVE YOU?

OH, MARVIN, YOU SAY THE **SWEETEST** THINGS!



BUT SOMETIMES "MARVIN" SITS ALONE WATCHING THE STARS! AND FAR BACK IN HIS EYES IS A LOOK OF LONGING AS HE RECALLS THE HALF-FORGOTTEN MEMORY OF ANOTHER TIME AND ANOTHER WORLD -- WHERE HE WAS KNOWN AS **GORM!**



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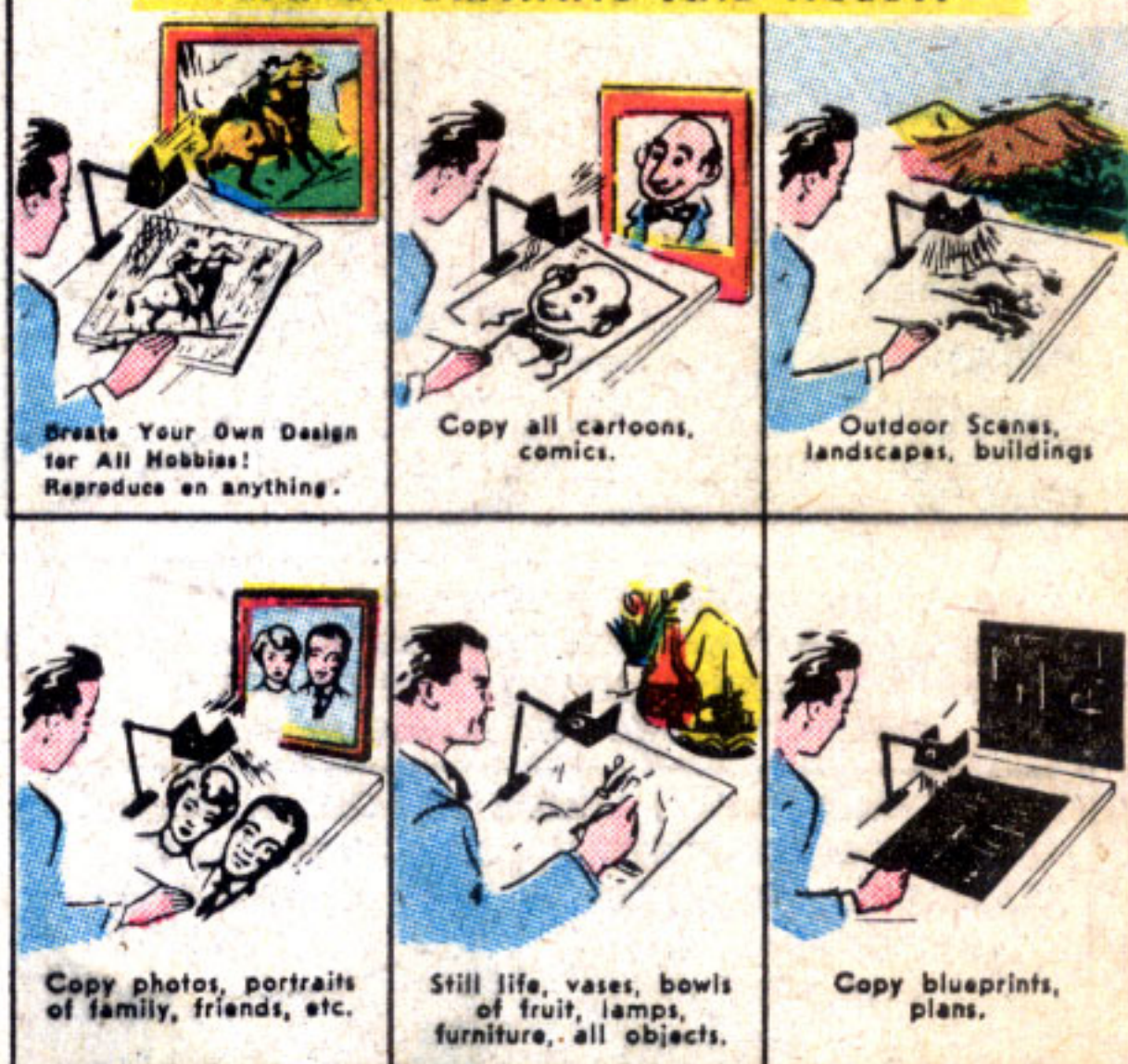
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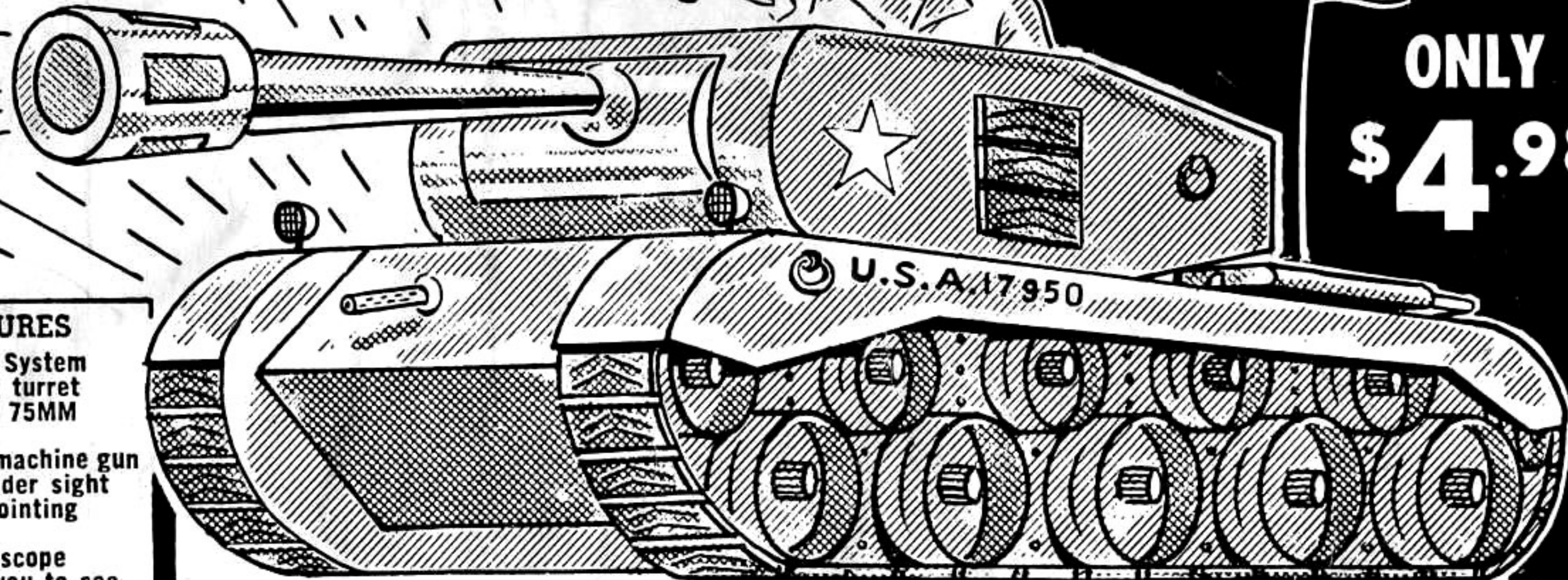
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